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Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Art Unit 1637

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/845,157; Filed: May 1, 2001
For: **Thermostable Reverse Transcriptases and Uses Thereof**
Inventor: SMITH *et al.*
Our Ref: 0942.5040001/RWE/HCC

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Statement of Substance of Interview; and
2. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Brian J. Del Buono
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 42,473

RWE/HCC:bac

Enclosure

308104_1.DOC



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

SMITH *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09/845,157

Filed: May 1, 2001

For: **Thermostable Reverse
Transcriptases and Uses Thereof**

Confirmation No.: 2674

Art Unit: 1637

Examiner: Fredman, Jeffrey Norman

Atty. Docket: 0942.5040001/RWE/HCC

Statement of Substance of Interview

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Jeffrey N. Fredman for the personal interview conducted on June 8, 2004. Pursuant to the Interview Summary mailed June 15, 2004, which directs Applicants to file a statement of the substance of the interview, Applicants submit herewith such a statement.

During the interview, the Examiner, Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) Gary Benzion, Practice Specialist Tony Caputa and Applicants' representatives discussed the Blain *et al.* and Arakawa *et al.* references, which were previously cited in the Office Action dated May 10, 2004. Additionally, the Examiner, SPE, Practice Specialist and Applicants' representatives discussed the 35 U.S.C § 112, first paragraph, rejection for lack of written description support of presently pending claims 2, 3, 7, 10-18, 24, 26-28, 44-47, 51 and 52. Lastly, the possibility of adding language to one or more claims to overcome the Examiner's assertion that the present claims lacked "any structure" was discussed.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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Date: September 7, 2004

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